

Hello. My name is Amy Spallino. I am a Danbury resident. I am opposed to bills SB184 and HB5262.

It is my understanding that these bills are attempting to redefine the definitions for eligibility for absentee ballots. Receiving an absentee ballot because of your own personal sickness and other reasons that affect you personally (a physical disability or religious reasons) are what an absentee ballot should be used for, in my mind.

I do not agree that the wording "personal illness" should be changed to just "illness" and all that infers. It seems to me that stretching the definition of illness means that not just those that are eligible (according to our current state constitution) for an absentee ballot, but is an attempt to encourage ALL voters to vote via absentee ballot.

Unlike some other states, CT has no definitive time frame for absentee voting. We lack security measures that prevent fraud in CT. We do not require signature verification or even a bona fide voter registration id. It is these types of measures that would guarantee citizens the election results could be trusted.

Instead, as seen in our 2020 Presidential election, we had chaos at the polls, ballot boxes, town clerk offices and at our post offices. I have friends in the Town clerk's office who were inundated with thousands of absentee ballots that were returned. They were overwhelmed with lots of extra work, lack of staff, and no system in place for handling all these absentee ballots (many of which were from ineligible voters who had passed away, moved away, or were registered in different places.) What a mess...and what a burden was placed on our public servants trying to handle it all. WE need to streamline this system so it secure and can be trusted. We need order, not chaos when it comes to electing our governmental leaders. This is our right as American citizens!

Due to the problems I have mentioned, my recommendation for CT elections is:

Do not remove the word personal from the description of eligibility for absentee ballots.

Voter IDs become mandatory, with signature verification included.

Absentee ballots be used for those who cannot get to the polls. A definitive time frame for returning ballots is also determined.

Thank you for your time and attention.